

## Water Division Weekly Report

Branch/Section: WD\_Director

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### Hot Issues (elevation/awareness)

**FL 404 Assumption** – EPA staff are meeting with FDEP in Tallahassee on 3/5-6 to discuss Florida's status of developing a 404 program, including FDEP's development of a Biological Assessment (BA). FDEP published their Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on 2/19 and shared a draft BA with EPA staff on 2/25. A briefing with the AAs for OW, OECA and OGC is scheduled for 3/26 regarding FDEP's enforcement authorities.

**GA PFAS** – On 2/21, WD and LSASD met with GA EPD for a technical discussion about R4's PFAS studies and results. An overview of all three studies (Weiss Lake, Coosa, and Chattooga) was presented and followed by discussion of various topics including biosolids, legacy loadings, breakdown of long-chained PFAS chemicals, and pretreatment. GA EPD also asked if EPA has conducted research on the formation of precursors in WWTPs, and DWS is following up on this request.

**Petro Operations bankruptcy (Santa Rosa County, FL)** – The DOG AUSA has informed EPA that the Chapter 7 Trustee is preparing to file a motion proposing the sale of the Blackjack/Petro Operating Company (POC) facility and substantially all its assets to a potential purchaser group that owns other oilfield assets in the vicinity of the Site. This potential buyer recently arranged for a tour of the facility and their interest has become serious enough over the past few days that they are now willing to fund the maintenance of the facility through an Interim Management Services Agreement ("Services Agreement") with the existing on-site contractor, Danos LLC.

**Garner, NC SAAP** - Appraisal of the property is underway. EPA contends that the original property owner – Garner, NC remains responsible to EPA for properly addressing EPA's interests in the sale of the property to Raleigh, NC, and for reimbursement of EPA's interests in whatever percentage of the property that will no longer be available for its original intended use (land treatment/application of sanitary wastewater. ORC's Robin Allen is the lead on this issue.

### Awareness

**Port Everglades Ocean Dumping Rulemaking** – The Port Everglades ODMDS proposed rule was signed by the RA on Feb 19 and was sent to the EPA's Office of Federal Register for review and publication. WD staff will proceed with posting the draft Environmental Assessment for the Port Everglades ODMDS, including the Site Management and Monitoring Plan, on the Region 4 website for public review and comment, concurrent with the publication of the Federal Register notice.

**Catawba** - Tribal Chief and lawyer spoke with Robin Allen on Friday 02/21. The Chief, the Indian attorney, and director of grants were concerned their voices were not being heard. Robin recommended they submit their arguments to Tanya Floyd the Region 4 Decision Official (DDO). They filed their rebuttal on Friday. The matter is now pending before the DDO.

**R4 NPS Program:** 1. Completed all FY19 319 Satisfactory Progress Determinations for 8 states and 5 tribes. 2. Volunteered to help ORD review 4-6 proposals from their recent the Approaches to Reduce Nutrient Loadings for Harmful Algal Blooms Management RFA. 3. Drafted an SOP for review and approval of state final reports for 319 grants. 3. Drafted SOP for review and approval of 319 grant project final reports. 4. Drafted an SOP for review and approval of annual 319 grant progress reports.

### Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

**NC Triennial Review** – North Carolina DEQ submitted revised water quality standards regulations (received on February 14). The decision document is being drafted. The statutory deadline is April 14.

**Trash Free Waters** - A two-day Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol (ETAP) train-the-trainer event has been scheduled with MBNEP for May 11 and 12. The Trash Free Waters contacts for Region 6 and the R4's Gulf of Mexico Division will be invited to participate.

**WD IO** – For the week of March 2, **Jeaneanne** will be in the office all week. **Becky** will be in the office and CDO Friday.